

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Method A method of enhancing the at least one performance properties property of an aqueous polymer dispersions dispersion comprising at least one water-soluble ionic compound compounds, which comprises removing at least 50 mol% of the at least one water-soluble ionic compound compounds from the polymer dispersion, and then adding at least one salt of a monoalkyl or dialkyl ester of a sulfonated dicarboxylic acid.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Method according to The method of claim 1, wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion is obtained by emulsion polymerization.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~The method of claim 1 Method according to one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the dispersed polymer in the polymer dispersion is a polymer obtainable obtained by free-radical addition polymerization which is synthesized from at least 60% by weight of what are called at least one principal monomers monomer selected from the group consisting of C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl (meth)acrylates, vinyl esters of carboxylic acids containing comprising up to 20 carbon atoms, vinyl aromatics having comprising up to 20 carbon atoms, ethylenically unsaturated nitriles, vinyl halides, vinyl ethers of alcohols containing comprising 1 to 10 carbon atoms, aliphatic hydrocarbons having comprising 2 to 8 carbon atoms and one or two double bonds, [[or]] and mixtures thereof of these monomers.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Method according to one of claims 1 to 3 The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one water-soluble ionic compound is an compounds are ionic emulsifier emulsifiers.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method of claim 1 according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein at least 90 mol% of the at least one water-soluble ionic compound is compounds are removed.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Method according to one of claims 1 to 5~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one ionic compounds are compound is removed by treating the dispersion with an ion exchanger resin, by diafiltration or by dialysis.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~Method according to one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the at least one salt of a monoalkyl or dialkyl ester of a sulfonated dicarboxylic acid is a dialkyl ester.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~Method according to one of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the at least one salt of a monoalkyl or dialkyl ester of a sulfonated dicarboxylic acid is a dialkyl ester of sulfonated succinic acid.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~Method according to one of claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the at least one salt of a monoalkyl or dialkyl ester of a sulfonated dicarboxylic acid is added in an amount of from 0.01 to 5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the dispersed polymer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An aqueous Aqueous polymer dispersion obtained by the method of claim 1 ~~dispersions obtainable by a method according to one of claims 1 to 9~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An adhesive comprising the aqueous polymer dispersion of claim 10 and at least one additive Use of the polymer dispersion according to claim 10 as an adhesive, especially pressure-sensitive adhesive.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of bonding two substrates, comprising bonding the two substrates with the adhesive of claim 11, Use according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the substrates to be bonded using with the adhesive is a transparent polymer film.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Use according to claim 12 The method of claim 12, wherein the transparent polymer film comprises a backing material, and wherein the adhesive is applied to [[a]] the transparent polymer film backing material.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Use according to claim 13 The method of claim 13, wherein the transparent polymer film is a PVC film of PVC, especially plasticized PVC, polyethylene or polypropylene.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A self-adhesive article comprising the adhesive of claim 11 Self-adhesive articles obtainable with use according to one of claims 11 to 14.

Claim 16 (New): The aqueous polymer dispersion of claim 10, in the form of an adhesive.

Claim 17 (New): A method of bonding two substrates, comprising bonding the two substrates with the adhesive of claim 16, wherein at least one of the substrates to be bonded with the adhesive is a transparent polymer film.

Claim 18 (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the transparent polymer film comprises a backing material, and wherein the adhesive is applied to the transparent polymer film backing material.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein the transparent polymer film is a PVC film.

Claim 20 (New): A self-adhesive article comprising the adhesive of claim 16.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one ionic compound is removed by treating the dispersion with an ion exchanger resin.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one ionic compound is removed by diafiltration.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one ionic compound is removed by dialysis.